ApprovettiFor Release 2000/08/30 : CIA-RDP80R01443R000300020006-21954 NSC BRIEFING

PERFORMANCE ESTIMATE FOR SOVIET JET HEAVY BOMBER 25X1X7 25X1X7 I. estimates of performance as of 1957 for the Heavy Jet Bomber have been finalized. Soviet 25X1C 25X1D comparative purposes, 25X1X7 estimates are herein presented. 25X1X7 25X1C Optimum Radius/Range Mission Take off weight (pounds) 345,000 Bomb load (pounds)* 10,000 Combat radius (N miles) 2,600 Combat range (N miles) 5,100 Target altitude (feet) 43,700 Maximum targets

USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File

speed (knots)

II. Estimated optimum mission performances with 10,000 lb. bomb loads (multi-megaton weapons) are such that without utilizing forward staging bases (Chukotski) and range extension techniques e.g. in-flight refueling or one-way 25X1D missions, the represents a striking power still generally oriented toward Europe, Asia, and peripheral areas. Thus, the full measure of threat posed by the O: CIA-RDP80R01443R000300020006-2

Bomb Load Variations" Approved For Release 2000/08/30 See Background - "B

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depends upon

25X1D

- a. an as yet undemonstrated in-flight refueling capability requiring 18 months to 2 years to develop and
- 25X1D
- operational aircraft on missions with the expectation that only half might reach assigned targets.
- one in which the TU-4 would still figure prominently,
 with the a strong element of strength against

 Eurasian and peripheral targets, and just

25X1D

capabilities, this is a serious and formidable picture, but it is not particularly alarming with respect to the

coming into significant quantity. Given Soviet nuclear

25X1D

continental US. However, with series production,

operational staging bases, and an effective in-flight

refueling system, the threat increases sharply becoming

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 -50^2 = 6000

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Background

BOMB LOAD VARIATIONS

25X1D

thousand pounds and increasing the fuel load accordingly, the combat radius/range of may be extended slightly.

However, nuclear ordnance weighing 3,000 lb. would be a marginally acceptable strategic weapon. If effectively constructed, a 3,000 lb. weapon could yield an energy equivalent of approximately 20KT--the yield of the Nagasaki bomb. By extravagant, inefficient use of nuclear material this yield could be boosted. Such uneconomical use of nuclear material appears unlikely as the Soviet stockpile of nuclear material in 1957 will still be relatively modest.

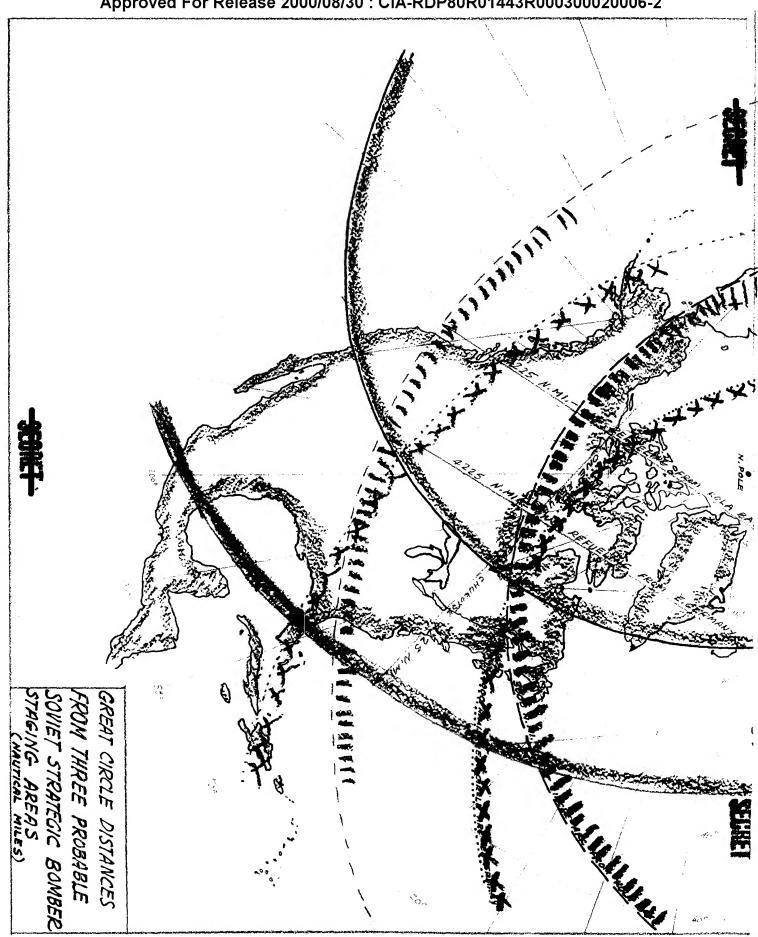
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Comparison of the Basic Missions of and US B-52 25X1D US B-52 25X1X7 Take off weight 390,000 345,000 (pounds) Bomb load 25X1C 10,000 10,000 (pounds) Combat radius 3,160 2,350 (NM) Combat range 4,360 6,560 (NM) Target altitude 41,200 46,700 (feet) Maximum Target 492 480 speed (knots)

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